

Shopping List (Single Barrel System)

Large garbage can with a lid, or 55 gallon plastic barrel (available at some grain stores in the area)

¾ inch outdoor faucet

¾ inch female threaded PVC pipe adapters with rubber washer

Roll of window screen / bug screen

1 tube of pipe goop, **or** 1 small can of liquid epoxy

1 Roll of Teflon tape

Bungee cords or screws to attach screen to barrel

4 cinder blocks to place barrel on

Flexible down spout tube

Short length of PVC pipe for the overflow spout (or to connect to a second barrel at a later time) or additional faucet to attach a hose to divert overflow away from the house

Splash block for under the overflow spout, if desired

Tools Needed:

Drill or electric screw driver

Tape Measure

Drywall or keyhole saw

Scissors

Level

Pipe wrench

Instructions:

Select a level location for the barrel near a downspout or roof valley. Make sure barrel is clean, especially if using a recycled food barrel. Place cinder blocks at the barrel location and use the level to make sure it is level. Even a slight lean could cause your barrel to fall over.

Step 1) Drill a hole where you want your faucet to be – near the bottom front of the barrel. Use the hand saw to enlarge the hole to the proper size for the PVC pipe adaptor. Be careful not to make the hole too large. Once you get it large enough with the saw you will be able to screw the pipe adapter in by hand. Screw the PVC pipe adapter into the hole.

Step 2) Coat the end of the pipe adapter inside of the barrel with epoxy or goop, whichever you are using, and attach the rubber washer inside the barrel. This may take two people, one reaching inside the barrel to hold the nut and the other turning from the outside. Make sure the pipe fits flush with the barrel so there will not be a leak.

Step 3) Coat the faucet threads with Teflon tape, goop or epoxy and screw the faucet into the PVC pipe. Make sure the faucet ends up facing the ground.



Step 4) Drill another hole close to the top of the barrel for the overflow spout. Enlarge the hole with the hand saw. If you are using a PVC pipe overflow spout, follow steps 2 and 3 for inserting the PVC pipe to ensure there are no leaks here.

If you are using a second faucet, coat the threads with Teflon tape or goop/epoxy and screw it into the hole. Make sure it is flush to avoid leaks. You can then attach a short length of hose to this faucet and direct water away from the barrel. Make sure to leave the faucet turned “on” so excess water can escape if the barrel gets full. You don’t want the overflow to puddle next to your house.

Step 5) Check for leaks at the bottom and top faucets - apply additional goop / epoxy as needed

Step 6) Trace the size of the downspout on the lid of the barrel and use the saw to cut the hole for the downspout to enter the lid.

Step 7) Cover the top of the barrel with window screen and secure with screws or bungee cords. This is important to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs in the barrel.

Step 8) Direct the downspout into the top of the barrel and secure the lid to the barrel.



Finished Project:



Options:

Attach a second barrel to increase capacity

Use the faucet to fill a watering can to hand-water plants

Attach a garden hose to the faucet to use your hose for watering

Attach the hose to a drip irrigation system for flower beds

Use a dual or multi-outflow faucet to allow you to attach more than one hose at once